



One Hundred First Legislature - First Session - 2009
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 630

Chairperson: Steve Lathrop
Committee: Business and Labor
Date of Hearing: February 9, 2009

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 630 amends certain statutory sections pertaining to workers' compensation. Specifically, the bill accommodates modern methods of payment for workers' compensation indemnity benefits. Currently, *Neb. Rev. Stat. § 48-125* states that compensation "shall be payable periodically in accordance with the methods of payment of wages of the employee at the time of the injury or death." The changes would allow payment of compensation to the injured employee to be made through direct deposit, debit card, pre-paid card, or similar electronic payment system.

The Workers' Compensation Act provides that cancellation of a workers' compensation insurance policy is not effective unless notice of the cancellation is given to the Workers' Compensation Court and to the employer. New language would make clear that when such notice is submitted electronically to the court, the notice will be deemed to have been given only upon receipt **and acceptance** by the court.

LB 630 strikes language relating to where the court's records are kept and eliminates the requirement that a "duplicate original" of a lump-sum settlement agreement be submitted to the court.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 48-168 would be amended to authorize certified vocational rehabilitation counselors to request informal dispute resolution. Additionally, § 48-168 would be amended to incorporate certain provisions of the Uniform Mediation Act, *Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 25-2930 to 25-2942*.

Principal Introducer:

Steve Lathrop, Chairperson
Committee on Business and Labor